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nothing of this latter sort in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. History is hardly elucidated by such forced terms.

The main exegesis is wholly correct. "The age of Roger Williams in Rhode Island was a great age. For the first time in human history State had wholly been dissociated from Church in a commonwealth not utopian but real. For the first time the fundamental idea of modern civilization—that of rights of man as a being responsible primarily to God and not to the community—had been given an impulse powerful and direct" (pp. 60-61). The right personalities are emphasized. Harris, Coddington, and Clarke brought the spiritists down to earth, giving organization and a backbone to the communities, or the state could not have lived.

The Dorr rebellion—an incipient revolution—is well handled. The important constitutional problems there developed are treated fairly. The strong fighting spirit of the Seeker-Quaker state, as in privateering, in the Revolution, and in the Civil War, is very suggestive.

An occasional error occurs, as in half-affirming (p. 6) a thoroughly exploded tradition of "Norse construction" of the Old Stone Mill. More important is the strange lapse "no . . . conscription" (p. 316)—a remarkable error in such thorough investigation. Rhode Island was first to draft; and her conscripts—not substituted—were duly mustered.

James Bryce brought our state under new obligation when he inspired the author to make these studies; and the East may well congratulate the western states thereon.

WILLIAM B. WEEDEN.

The American Nation: A History. Edited by ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. Volume 6. *Provincial America, 1690-1740.* By EVARTS BOUTELL GREENE, Ph.D., Professor of History in Illinois State University. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers. 1905. Pp. xxi, 356.)

ONE advantage of the present movement toward the writing of general histories of our country is that gaps must be filled in. Mr. Greene's book deals with one of these, perhaps the least-known fifty years between 1690 and the present day, a period which has at the same time repelled by its difficulty and lacked in the picturesque attraction of the years just before and after. Mr. Greene has handled his problem with the grasp of a true historical artisan, and his book is a definite contribution to American history. The chief difficulty arises from the necessity of treating the history of still distinctly different colonies, which, nevertheless, "possessed important elements of unity". Mr. Greene has wisely decided that, within the limits of a single volume, "the most instructive method for the student of this period is to emphasize the general movements" (p. xix). It must, however, be confessed that there is a consequent loss of vitality. To such a book one must bring one's interest, and it is a question whether some concession might not have been made to the general reader by way of

the selection for fuller treatment of typical incidents. Whether Mr. Greene might not have adopted the middle course of a treatment by sections will also be considered a question by some, but his determination to give emphasis to political institutions made this the less practicable.

In the development of general tendencies Mr. Greene shows full grasp of the situation. He is particularly strong in dealing with the relations of the colonies and the mother-country, and devotes about one-third of the book to this topic. The effect of the "Glorious Revolution" is well treated, although the practical identity of the cases of the colonial and municipal charters, and the consequent obligation upon William to restore the latter, is perhaps not made quite plain. Attention is repeatedly called to the influence of the charter colonies on the provinces by furnishing illustrations of popular government, and of the reflex influence of the provinces on them in introducing English influences. Other forces making for union are enumerated, and this tendency stands clear-cut throughout. For the sake of completeness, it is unfortunate that the intercolonial settlements of the Scotch-Irish and the Presbyterian synod are not mentioned in this connection. The careful development of the English administration gives abundant illustration of another thesis of Mr. Greene, that the struggle between the imperial government, desirous of a uniform, effective system, and the several colonies, anxious to preserve their particularistic rights and customs, furnished the bulk of colonial politics, and was preparing for the Revolution by defining issues and training public men. Mr. Greene mentions, in fact places first in order, one more important general tendency, that of material expansion. This recognition makes more striking the fact that the subject is dismissed in a chapter of twenty-one pages, with occasional references elsewhere. This treatment, though brief, is strong in the subject of colonial legislation and mentions most matters of importance, but there is decided need of an illustrative map, and one feels that the push to the West does not permeate the book as it must have permeated the life of the period.

Though this series is intended rather as a presentation of the present state of historical knowledge with regard to the country, than to advance that knowledge, most of the writers have really made in their respective volumes original contributions to their fields, and Mr. Greene's stands second to none that have yet appeared in this respect. Already at home in the subject through his studies for *The Provincial Governor*, he has extended his investigation to the whole field of colonial politics and administration. The sources which he has chiefly used are the *Statutes of the Realm*, the *Calendars of State Papers*, *Colonial*, the colonial statutes and records, and such collections as the *Penn-Logan Correspondence* and the *Randolph Papers*. He has distinctly added to our acquaintance with the use of the veto power by the English government, the policy and enforcement of the navigation acts, and the mechanics of English control. He has successfully welded this together with the existing monographic material on kindred subjects, and

gives the clearest and most comprehensive account we have of the imperial system at this time with relation to America.

Twenty-seven pages are devoted to a discussion of industry and commerce. Here the land and labor systems, manufacturing, the fur-trade, the fisheries, the balance of trade, the coasting-trade, privateering, piracy, and the currency are discussed in admirable little summaries. The final chapter, on "Provincial Culture", taken in connection with an earlier chapter on "Puritans and Anglicans", is distinctly inadequate. In these forty-seven pages one might have expected something with regard to the suggestive spread of Arminianism, to the attempt of Jonathan Edwards to harmonize emotional religion and predestination, to the entering wedge between the Harvard and Yale schools of thought. The whole treatment of religious questions, however, is purely formal; we are told that there were differences of opinion and changes of spirit, that Fichte admired Edwards, that "solitary thinker of North America", but not a word of what the latter thought. The "Great Awakening", the first occasion when the people of the colonies responded to a single enthusiasm, is discussed in one page (p. 321), and Edwards, the only American who was great during these years in another. Not even the vital question of ecclesiastical organization is discussed. One does not need to be a disciple of *Kulturgeschichte* to require some treatment of what was still the dominant intellectual and moral interest of the major portion of the colonies. Mr. Greene, indeed, in places evidently assumes, on the part of his readers, a knowledge of religious conditions, but, if so, his assumption will not, in many instances, be supported by facts. In a similar way Mr. Greene presupposes a knowledge of, but does not mention, the separation of North and South Carolina.

The apparatus of the book, maps, foot-notes, critical essay on authorities, and index, is admirably worked out. The evident repression of the foot-notes has prevented any extensive reference to monographs, but this is in large measure supplied by the list of authorities. The latter is well calculated to fit the needs of both the student and the general reader, though, from the standpoint of the latter, one misses Seeley's *Expansion of England* and Frothingham's *Rise of the Republic*, and the former would expect mention of W. D. Johnston's *Slavery in Rhode Island*, Reinsch's *English Common Law in the Early American Colonies*, some of the *Columbia Studies*, and a discussion of the voluminous local material for the period.

CARL RUSSELL FISH.

The American Nation: A History. Edited by ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. Volume 7. *France in America, 1497-1763.* By REUBEN GOLD THWAITES, LL.D., Secretary of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers. 1905. Pp. xxi, 320.)

We have the right to expect a high type of excellence in a history of the American nation "in twenty-seven volumes", written "from